

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13
ACDA-12 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /073 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:RGRICH,JR.:JCM
APPROVED BY EA - MR. HOLBROOKE
-----073088 050106Z /64
O 050054Z NOV 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 264742

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, KS, US

SUBJECT: NEWSWEEK ARTICLE ON KOREA SUGGESTS USG SEEKS
OVERTHROW OF PARK CHUNG-HEE

1. WE HAVE JUST SEEN LONG ARTICLE ON KOREA BY PETER WEBB
AND LARS-ERIK NELSON BEING CARRIED IN NOVEMBER 7
ASIAN EDITION OF NEWSWEEK. ARTICLE DOES NOT APPEAR
IN DOMESTIC U.S. EDITION.

2. ONE PASSAGE APPEARS TO SUGGEST THAT USG MAY SEEK
OVERTHROW OF PARK GOVERNMENT. PERTINENT QUOTATION
FOLLOWS:

3. QUOTE: SOME PESSIMISTS WENT EVEN FURTHER,
PREDICTING THAT ONLY A CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IN SEOUL
COULD ALTER THE SITUATION. THE ONLY WAY THIS IMPASSE
IS GOING TO BE RESOLVED IS IF THERE IS SOMEONE OTHER
THAN PARK CHUNG HEE LEADING THE GOVERNMENT OF
SOUTH KOREA, ONE OFFICIAL TOLD NEWSWEEK. SOUTH KOREAN
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SENSITIVITIES TO THIS MOOD IN WASHINGTON COULD WELL
TRIGGER THE KIND OF POLITICAL UPHEAVAL THAT WOULD LEAD
TO THE REPLACEMENT OF PARK. IF THE GENERALS OVER
THERE WHO ARE LOYAL TO HIM BEGIN TO SEE THAT SANTA CLAUS
IS TAKING HIS BAG OF GOODIES SOMEWHERE ELSE, THEY MAY
WELL CONCLUDE THAT PRESERVING THE GOODWILL OF THE U.S.
IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN PRESERVING PARK CHUNG HEE.

UNQUOTE.

4. ROK EMBASSY WASHINGTON, ACTING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM SEOUL, MADE INQUIRY TO DEPARTMENT NOVEMBER 3. IN RESPONSE, KOREA COUNTRY DIRECTOR STATED UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT IT IS NOT USG POLICY TO SEEK REMOVAL OF PRESIDENT PARK CHUNG HEE OR OVERTHROW OF ROKG.

5. EMBASSY SHOULD GIVE SIMILAR ASSURANCES TO FOREIGN MINISTRY IN SEOUL IF DEEMED USEFUL. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT REFORM, INTERVENTION, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, PRESIDENT, PLOTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE264742
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RGRICH,JR.:JCM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770407-1095
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771192/aaaadayc.tel
Line Count: 72
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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Subject: NEWSWEEK ARTICLE ON KOREA SUGGESTS USG SEEKS OVERTHROW OF PARK CHUNG-HEE
TAGS: PGOV, SOPN, KS, US, (PARK CHUNG HEE)
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